

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Pecos District
Roswell Field Office**

**Documentation of Land Use Plan Compliance
and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
DNA-510-2008-027**

A. Roswell Field Office

Proposed Action: To amend the East Chaves Grassland Project EA (No. NM-510-2006-180) to include the treatment of catclaw acacia (*Acacia* spp.) and creosote (*Larrea tridentata*).

Location of Proposed Action:

See the accompanying map from the East Chaves Grassland EA (No. NM-510-2006-180).

Description of Proposed Action:

Treatment of catclaw acacia would occur when the amount of catclaw acacia meets or exceeds 50 plants per acre. Treatment of creosote would occur when creosote component of shrubs meets or exceeds 20 percent of the vegetative canopy.

To reduce catclaw acacia within the project area with a herbicide treatment of pelletized tebuthiuron or an approved alternate herbicide by aerial application. Application rates for the herbicide would be 0.75 pounds of active ingredient per acre of tebuthiuron. See Appendix A for the label information and appropriate application requirements for tebuthiuron.

To reduce creosote within the project area with a herbicide treatment of pelletized tebuthiuron or an approved alternate herbicide by aerial application. Application rates for the herbicide would be 0.5 pounds of active ingredient per acre of tebuthiuron. See Appendix A for the label information and appropriate application requirements for tebuthiuron.

Where catclaw acacia and creosote occur together, the higher of the two application rates would be used for effective control. Where either species occur alone the respective application rates would be used.

Applicant: None

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

LUP Name: Roswell Resource Management Plan	Date Approved: October 1997
LUP Name: New Mexico Standards for Rangeland Health & Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management	Date Approved: January 2001
LUP Name: Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Seventeen Western States Final Programmatic EIS	Date Approved: September 2007

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions and implementation plan decisions:

1. The 1997 Roswell RMP establishes and describes Desired Plant Communities (DPC).
2. The DPC establishes treatment thresholds for brush species.
3. Both the Roswell RMP and Vegetation Treatment PEIS establish best management

practices for the use of herbicides.

4. The Vegetation Treatment PEIS lists herbicides approved for use by BLM.

C. Identify the applicable NEPA document and other related documents that cover the Proposed Action.

East Chaves Grassland Project EA (No. NM-510-2006-180)

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Yes. The purpose of the East Chaves Grassland Restoration Project is to meet the goals and objectives of desired plant community as described in the 1997 Roswell Resource Management Plan. Treating catclaw acacia and creosote are part of the goals and objectives of desired plant community

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values and circumstances? Yes. In addition to treatment with herbicides, the EA analyzed manual treatment, large-scale mechanical treatments and no action as alternatives.

3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis on the proposed action? Yes. The total acres of public land (182,000 acres) that might be treated would not change. Therefore, the cumulative impacts analysis is still valid. Further, Section 7 consultation with the US Fish & Wildlife Service (#22420-2007-TA-0033) conducted for a related action in the same area confirmed BLM's determination regarding special status species in the project area.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA documents continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action? Yes. The thresholds for treatment have been established in the RMP and the approach would lead to the same conclusion.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged for those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document sufficiently analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action? Yes.

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from the implementation of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Yes. Adding the treatments for catclaw acacia and creosote do not add to the amount of acres proposed for treatment.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action? Yes. The Roswell RMP, the NM Standards & Guidelines EIS and 2007 Vegetation Treatment EIS received the amount of public review and input appropriate for environmental impact statements. The East Chaves Grassland EA was subject to a 45 day public review before a final decision was issued.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet. See attached EA Checklist.

F. Mitigation Measures: In addition to the mitigation measures listed in the documents cited, potential treatment areas will be reviewed by a BLM biologist to determine if these treatment areas contain suitable sand dune lizard (*Sclerophorus arenicola*) habitat or suitable lesser prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*). Suitable habitat for both species contains shinnery oak (*Quercus harvardii*). Areas containing shinnery oak will be removed from consideration of treatment with tebuthiuron.

Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action. This constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirement of NEPA.

/s/Eddie Bateson

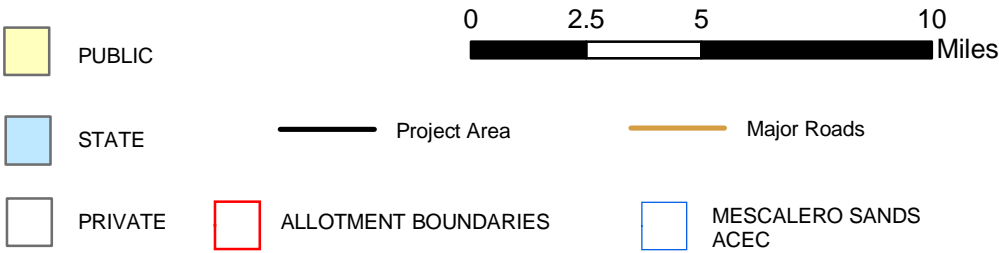
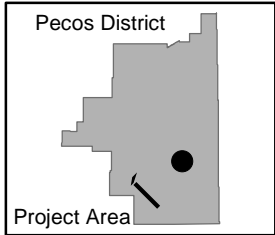
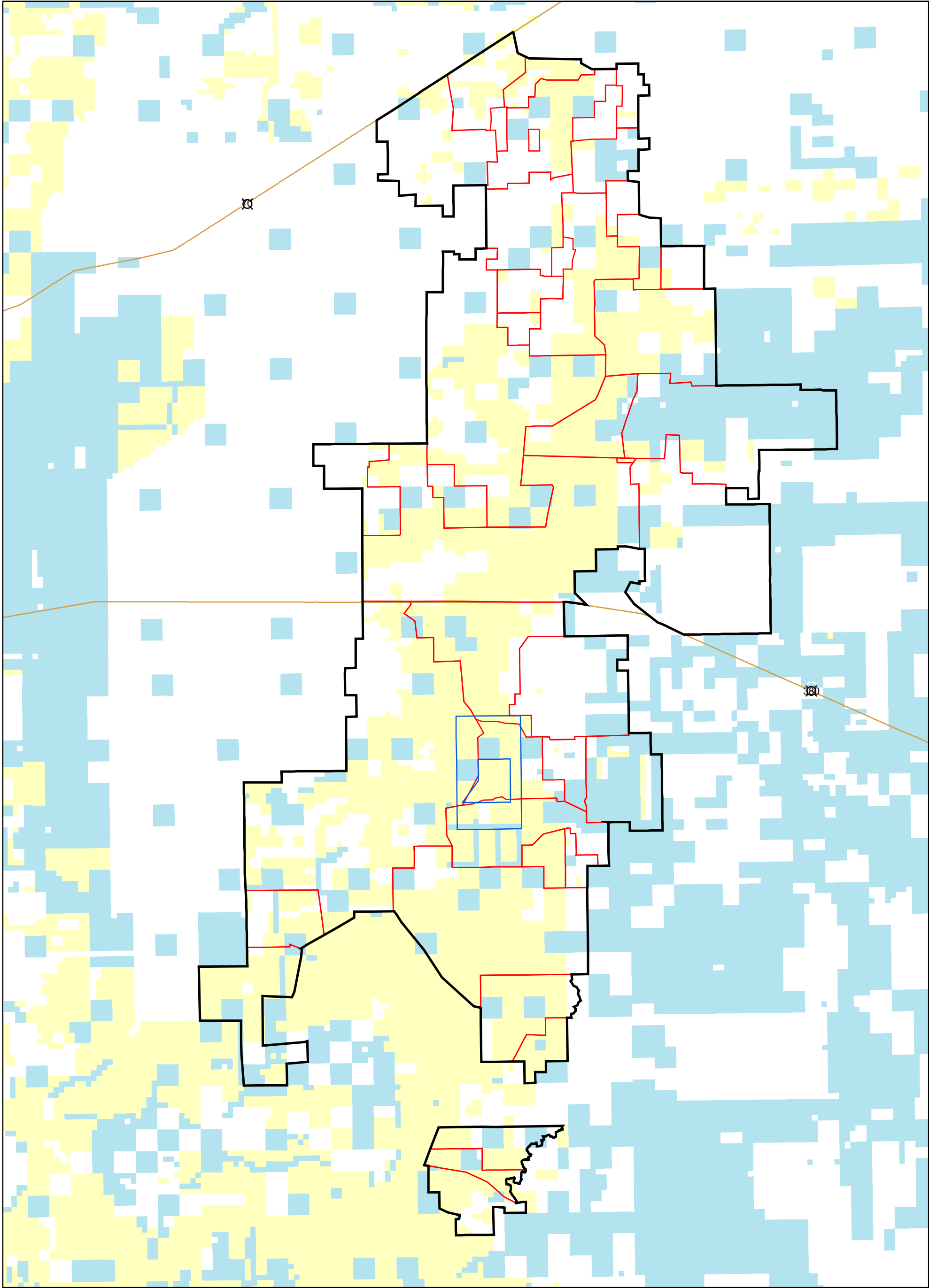
Eddie Bateson
Roswell Field Manager

1/23/08

Date



EAST CHAVES GRASSLAND RESTORATION



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Produced by the RFO GIS Specialist on Sept. 13, 2006.